

France, place the whole position before the cabinet and consult with them.

When the House assembled every seat on the floor and in the galleries was filled. The diplomatic representatives of Great Britain's allies occupied seats in the gallery for distinguished strangers. On the benches reserved for Lords were many members of the Upper House who took a prominent part in bringing about the recent change of government. Among them were Lord Northcliffe, Lord Balfour, Lord Jellicoe and Lord Curzon. There was also a scattering of Dominion Ministers, including Premier Manning and former Premier Ward of New Zealand.

Sir William Robertson, Chief of the Imperial Staff at army headquarters, dressed in khaki, was in the gallery.

When the Premier entered the House just before 5 o'clock he was cheered enthusiastically from all quarters. Former Premier Asquith, who entered much later, also was cheered vociferously by the Liberals.

#### ASQUITH'S SCORN.

**He Attacks the German Chancellor's Humanity.**

London, Dec. 19.—The former Premier, Mr. Asquith, after declaring that his first duty was to extend congratulations, which he did with all his heart, to Mr. Lloyd George upon his accession to the highest and most important office in the service of the crown, made a brief but pointed reference to the question of peace.

"The country," he said, "has just received some so-called peace proposals from Germany. True, these proposals are wrapped up with the familiar dialect of Prussian arrogance. But how come it after two years of war that a power which professes itself conscious of military superiority should make a peace proposal to whomever—may, even to shout so that all the world can hear—the word 'peace'?"

"Is this from a sudden access of charity? When did the German Chancellor become so sensitive to the dictates of humanity?"

**Refrain of Necessity.**

"We must look elsewhere for the origin of these proposals. They are born of military and economic necessity. We all yearn for peace, but it must be a peace, not a sham-faced peace. There must be no patched up, precarious compromise."

"It must be a peace which achieves the purpose for which we entered the war. Such a peace we would gladly accept. Anything short of it we are bound to repudiate by every obligation of honor, and, above all, by the debt we owe to those who have given their lives to the cause."

"I see nothing in the note from Germany which gives me the least reason to believe that they are prepared to give us reparation and security. If they are in such a mood, if they are prepared to give us reparation for the past and security for the future let them say so."

Mr. Asquith, in congratulating Mr. Lloyd George, said that if he spoke from where he did it was not because he wished to be the leader of the opposition. Opponents of the Government have a great desire to be placed at the disposal of the Government whatever experience he possessed.

**No Role of Apologist.**

While it was a relief to be free from the almost unapproachable burden of the note from Germany, it was also a matter of regret to leave unfinished the task which he had labored so long. He did not assume the role of an apologist for the late Government and he denied that there had been slackness on its part.

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**SONNINO CRITICAL.**

**See No Basis for Negotiations in Germany's Note.**

Rome, Dec. 19.—Foreign Minister Sonnino said in the Chamber of Deputies yesterday that several resolutions which had been introduced in the Chamber in regard to the peace proposals of the Central Powers seemed to be based on the supposition that the Government had or would have concrete and precise indications as to the bases on which negotiations would be opened.

"This supposition does not correspond with the facts," the Foreign Minister continued. "There is no sign of conditions or bases for negotiations in the enemy's note. I possess no information in regard to eventual conditions of peace beyond the note from the enemy which I read in the Chamber."

"Should propositions be made subsequently we should consider what to do, but it would be neither practical nor proper to discuss that question to-day. Moreover, it should be understood clearly that no consideration of any condition whatever which by hypothesis might be eventually offered to him under separate form."

"If we were in the presence of genuine proposals with bases of a nature to satisfy the general postulates of civilization and justice which I have just mentioned none would reject them abruptly. But there is nothing to show even faintly that this is the case, and there are many reasons for believing the contrary."

"I do not desire to use exaggerated language, but the accent of boastfulness and the lack of sincerity which characterize the preamble to the enemy's note certainly inspire no belief that these mysterious peace conditions which the Central Empires announce they have the intention of exposing later on with the object of guaranteeing the existence, honor and free development of their peoples do constitute an answer to the postulates we have laid down."

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## ENGLAND SCORNS KAISER'S PROFFER

Continued from First Page.

which it is possible peace can be obtained and maintained in Europe. Those terms have been repeatedly stated by all the leading statesmen of the Allies. They have been stated repeatedly here and outside. To quote the leader of the House last week:

"Reparation and guarantee against repetition, so there shall be no mistake, and it is important that there should be no mistake in a matter of life or death to millions."

"Let me repeat—complete restitution, full reparation and effectual guarantees. Did the German Chancellor use a single phrase to indicate that he was prepared to accept such a peace? Was there a hint of restitution? Was there a suggestion of security for the future, that this outrage on civilization would not again be perpetrated at the first profitable opportunity?"

**"A Denial of Peace."**

"The very substance and style of the speech constitutes a denial of peace on the very terms on which peace is possible. He is not even conscious now that Germany has committed an offence against the respect for nations. Listen to this from the note:

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were with their constant naval menace. But we can hardly realize what it meant to France and Russia. Several times there were threats directed against them even within the lifetime of this generation, which presented the alternative of war or humiliation. There were many of us who hoped that the internal influence in Germany would be strong enough to check and ultimately to eliminate it.

"Now that this great war has been forced by the Prussian leaders it would be folly not to see to it that this swash-buckling through the streets of Europe and the disturbance of peaceful citizens was dealt with here and now as the most serious offence against the law of nations."

"We will wait until we hear what terms and guarantee the German Government offer other than those, better than those, sure than those which she so lightly broke. And meanwhile we shall put our trust in our unbroken army rather than in broken faith."

"The following are a few of the most striking sentences from the latter part of Mr. Lloyd George's speech:

"An absolutely new army. The old had done its duty and spent itself in the achievement of that great task. It was a new army. A year ago it was one in the earth of Britain—of Ireland. It became iron. It has passed through the fiery furnace and enemy knows that it is now fine steel."

"An absolutely new army—new men, new officers taken from schools, boys from schools, from colleges, from universities, never trained to war, never thought of war; many, perhaps, never handled a weapon of war; Generals never given an opportunity of handling great masses of men."

"They have faced the greatest army in the world, the greatest army the world has ever seen. The best equipped, the best trained, and they have beaten them, beaten them, beaten them."

"Battle after battle, day after day, week after week, the strongest of the trenches ever devised by human skill they have driven them out by valor, valor which is incredible when you read the story of it."

**Top-heavy Cabinet.**

"I have no doubt that the old Cabinet were better adapted to navigate the Parliament river with its shoals and shifting sands, and perhaps for a cruise in home waters. But a Cabinet of three was rather top-heavy for a gale. It was the meaning of our Cabinet adapted for Parliamentary navigation, but I am convinced that it is best for war."

"It is true that in a multitude of counsellors there is wisdom; that was written for Oriental countries in peace time. But you can't run a war with Rabelaisian counsel. The grim facts of the five, and of its members doing steady duty outside, manning the ways and defending the council chamber against attack while we are trying to do your work inside."

"You can't have absolute equality in a war that is impossible. But you can have equal readiness to sacrifice from all. There are hundreds of thousands who have given their lives; there are millions who have given up comfortable homes and careers for daily communion with death. Multitudes have given up those whom they loved best."

"Let the nation as a whole place its comforts, its luxuries, its indulgence, its elegance on the national altar consecrated by such sacrifices as these men have made. Let us proclaim during the war a national lent. The nation will be better and stronger for it, mentally and morally, as well as physically. It will strengthen its fibre and ennoble its spirit. Without it we shall not get the full benefit of this struggle."

"Our armies have driven the enemy out of the battered villages of France and across the devastated plains of Belgium. They might hurl him across the Rhine into the distant deserts of Africa, but the nation as a whole shoulders part of the burden of victory it won't profit by the triumph, for it is not what a nation does but what it gives that makes it great."

**Need Best Service of All.**

"It is not a mere haphazard law of supply and demand that will accomplish that which is necessary to save a nation within the time that it is essential it should be accomplished. It is not a question of years; it is a question of months, perhaps weeks; and unless not merely the material resources of the country but the labor of the country is used to the best advantage and every man is called upon to render service to the State as he can best give, victory is beyond our reach."

"I wish it were possible to remove the understanding between Great Britain and Ireland which for centuries has been such a source of misery to one and an embarrassment and weakness to the other. I should consider it a great victory for the allied forces."

"I tried once to remove the misunderstanding between England and Ireland. Men by Englishmen and of Englishmen by Irishmen and worse, and most fatal of all, suspicion by Irishmen of Irishmen."

"It was a quarrel of distrust which clogged my footsteps and made progress impossible. That is the real enemy of Ireland. That could be slain I believe. It would accomplish more for Ireland than they ever were before. That is why I have always thought and said that the real solution of the Irish problem is the removal of the atmosphere of distrust which has been created by my colleagues when I say we shall strive to produce that better feeling."

**Tells of Food Policies.**

After dealing with the peace problem the Premier touched upon the general policy which would be inaugurated by the new Government. With respect to the question of food supplies he said:

"The United States and Canada are failures and the Argentine promises badly. Russia is unavailable and our own harvest is poor, while only three-eighths of the normal winter sowing has taken place, owing to bad weather. Under these circumstances the late Government decided to appoint a food controller."

"We appeal to the nation to assist the Government in distributing our resources so that no man shall suffer hunger because somebody else has too much. That means sacrifice, but the men on the Somme are enduring far greater sacrifices."

"We propose to appoint immediately a director of national service. The military director will be responsible for recruiting for the army. The civil director will begin by scheduling all industries and services according to their character as essential or non-essential to the war effort."

"Certain industries will be classed as indispensable, while others will be drawn upon for men required either for the army or for indispensable industries."

**A Good Leader.**

"The nation is fighting for life and is entitled to the best services of all citizens. The Government has been fortunate in inducing Arthur Neville Chamberlain, Lord Mayor of Birmingham, to accept the post of Director-General under this scheme. He will immediately proceed to organize a great system of enrolment for industrial labor."

After making an announcement in regard to the nationalization of shipping the Premier said the Shipping Controller was now conferring with the Admiralty and that he hoped it would be possible shortly to announce not merely the plan for more effective use of ships on the register but for the construction of ships to make good the wastage of war."

Dealing with the war situation, the Premier said he had to paint a stern but not gloomy picture. The situation was an unfortunate one, but at the worst it only prolonged the war and could not affect it. It might have a salutary effect in calling the attention of the Allies to obvious defects of organization. To prevent the Rumanian situation from becoming worse they had taken strong action in Greece. They were taking no risks. They had decided to recognize the agents of former Premier Venizelos.

**Growth of the Army.**

Speaking of the western front he referred to the growth of the British armies there, and added:

"I am convinced ultimate victory is sure if the nation shows the same spirit of endurance and readiness to learn as the undisciplined armies at the front."

Of the cooperation between the English and the French he said:

"The embankments laboriously built up by generations of men against barbarians have been broken, and had not the night of Britain passed into the breach Europe would have been inundated with a flood of savagery and unbridled lust of power."

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## Unsurpassed Mineral Water

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cents Allies he said: "As to our relations with our allies I venture to say we should seek two things—unity of aim and unity of action. Before we can take full advantage of the enormous resources of the Allies there must be some means of arriving at clear decisions and carrying them out. I believe it is this done it will serve to equalize conditions."

"There must be more consultation between men in the matter of the direction of affairs. There must be less feeling that each country has the only its own front to look after. There must be a just policy of a common front. There must be recognition by all the Allies that there is only one front."

"The policy of a common front must be a reality. It is on the other side, Austrian guns are helping the German army and German infantry is stiffening the Austrian army. The Turks are helping the Germans; Austrians and Bulgarians mix with all. There is an essential feeling that there is but one front, and we have got to get that more and more, instead of having overwhelming guns on one side and bare breasts on the other."

Paying tribute to the contributions of the dominions to the prosecution of the war, Mr. Lloyd George said the new Administration was just as full of gratitude as the old "for the support of our kinsmen," and he believed the dominions ought to be more fully consulted as to the progress and course of the war.

"We propose, therefore, at an early date," he went on, "to summon an imperial conference and place the whole position before the dominions and take counsel with them as to what action they and we should take together in order to achieve an early and complete triumph for the ideals they and we are fighting for."

**The Political Question.**

Turning to the more purely political of the domestic problems before the new Ministry, the Premier said:

"We are anxious to avoid all controversial questions. The functions of the Premier and leader of the House of Commons have been clearly defined. It was believed the double tasks were too much for one man. The organization of the new Cabinet is best adapted for the purpose of war. In war you want prompt decision, and the Allies have suffered disaster after disaster from tardiness of decision."

**Issue Higher Than Party.**

The Premier's peroration was as follows:

"If in this war I have paid scant heed to the call of party it is because I realized from the moment the Prussian cannon hurled death at a peaceable and inoffensive little country that a challenge had been sent to civilization to decide an issue higher than party, deeper than party, wider than all parties, an issue upon the settlement of which will depend the fate of the world."

"The issues are the issues I want to keep in front of the nation, so that we shall not falter or faint in our resolutions."

"There is a time in every prolonged and fierce war when in the passion and rage of conflict men forget the high purpose with which they entered it. It is a struggle for international right, international honor, international good faith—the channel along which peace, honor and good will must flow among men."

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